

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMCONSUL LAHORE
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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3211

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: PLANS FOR INTERIM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT - PART II

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 2744, B) ISLAMABAD 2971, C) ISLAMABAD 3051,
D) ISLAMABAD 2948

1. SARDAR ABDUL QAYYUM KHAN, AZAD KASHMIR LEADER, WHO WAS A
PROMINENT NEGOTIATOR FOR THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) IN
ITS ILL-FATED TALKS WITH THE PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPP) IN
MAY, 1977, HAS BEGUN WHAT HE HAS DESCRIBED AS A PERSONAL
INITIATIVE TO CONVINCE THE LEADERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES
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TO JOIN THE PROPOSED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (REFTELS A, B, C.). ON
30 MARCH HE MET WITH TEHRIK-I-ISTIQLAL LEADER AIR MARSHAL (RET)
ASGHAR KHAN, AND ON 31 MARCH WITH MAULANA KAUSAR NIAZI, LEADER OF
THE PPP "LIBERAL GROUP." AFTER THE MEETING WITH NIAZI, HE STATED
THAT THE PPP LIBERAL GROUP WOULD JOIN ANY EFFORT WHICH WAS IN THE
LARGER INTERESTS OF PAKISTAN. NIAZI IN TURN MET WITH SOME OTHER
PPP LEADERS ON 1 APRIL; HE STATED AFTERWARDS THAT THEY HAD

DISCUSSED THE EFFORTS TO FORM AN ALL-PARTY GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE WOULD SHORTLY BE TRAVELLING TO KARACHI AND LAHORE FOR FURTHER MEETINGS.

2. ON 30 MARCH THE CENTRAL INFORMATION SECRETARY OF WALI KHAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP), MR. ABID ZUBERI, STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED, AFTER CONSULTATIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF THE PARTY, THAT THE NDP WOULD NOT JOIN A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. SPEAKING THE NEXT DAY HOWEVER, QAYYUM STATED THAT THE PNA, OF WHICH THE NDP IS A PART, WOULD DECIDE AS A UNIT WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE, AND ONLY WHEN THE PROPOSAL IS FORMALLY MADE.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SOLID INFORMATION ON THE MATTER, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT QAYYUM IS UNDERTAKING THIS MISSION ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. WE ASSUME THAT HE HAS AT LEAST THE TACIT APPROVAL, IF NOT OUTRIGHT ENCOURAGEMENT, OF CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ZIA.

4. WE BELIEVE THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MLA'S EFFORTS TO FORM A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESTS WITH WALI KHAN AND THE NDP. BY LEADING A RUMP PPP OUT OF THE BHUTTO CAMP AND INTO A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, KAUSER NIAZI COULD GIVE A NEW GOVERNMENT AT LEAST THE APPEARANCE OF WIDER POLITICAL SUPPORT. THE MAJOR PNA PARTIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NDP, SEEM WILLING AND EVEN EAGER TO COOPERATE. ASGHAR KHAN'S TEHRIQ WILL PROBABLY REMAIN OUT, THEREBY ALLOWING ASGHAR TO REMAIN UNTAINTED BY THE BRUSH OF COOPERATION
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WITH THE MLA.

5. A RUMP PPP/PNA AGREEMENT TO SERVE WOULD MOST PROBABLY MEET ZIA'S DEMAND THAT A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT MUST REPRESENT "ALL THE PARTIES." HOWEVER, PNA PARTICIPATION WITHOUT THE NDP, AND THE INDEPENDENT BALUCHI LEADERS, WILL SERIOUSLY DETRACT FROM THE IMPRESSION OF A TRULY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH THE MILITARY AND ITS POLITICAL COMPATRIOTS ARE TRYING TO CREATE. AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY WOULD WANT A STATEMENT FROM THE NDP, AND PERHAPS SPECIFICALLY FROM WALI KHAN, THAT ALTHOUGH IT CANNOT PARTICIPATE IT WILL NOT OPPOSE SUCH A GOVERNMENT. WALI HAS LEFT FOR THE UK FOR EYE TREATMENT (REFTEL D), AND WE ASSUME MUCH OF SADAR QAYYUM'S MANEUVERINGS ARE AIMED AT ENCOURAGING THE MOST FORTHCOMING ATTITUDES FROM WALI'S COLLEAGUES.

6. THE MLA UNDOUBTEDLY SEES IT IN ITS INTEREST TO HAVE A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED. IT WILL DEFLECT SOME OF THE CRITICISM THE MILITARY NOW RECEIVES AND, IF THE SENTENCE AGAINST BHUTTO IS CARRIED OUT, SHOW THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES SUPPORT THE PUNISHMENT. IT IS SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY THE PROSPECT OF SERVICE IN A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT UNDER MLA STEWARDSHIP IS APPEALING TO SO MANY IN THE PNA. WE ASSUME THE PNA LEADERSHIP

BELIEVES HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NONE, EVEN IF THE MILITARY
KEEPS THE HALF WITH ALL THE RAISINS.
HUMMEL

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